GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
FEMALE FOETICIDES
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of female foeticides take place in the country;

(b) if so, the number of female foeticides cases brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether such cases have been detected mainly in private and unrecognised hospitals;

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government to stop this despicable practice; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to remove discrimination between male and female child in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 FOR 29.11.2000

(a)&(b): No separate figures on female foeticide are available. A statement on State/UTwise incidence of foeticide reported during 1997, 1998 and 1999 is annexed.

(c)&(d): Only a few cases of violation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention ofMisuse) Act, 1994 has been reported from Haryana and Tamil Nadu, which involved private Nursing Homes/Clinics. Governmentof Haryana has reported in 1998 that two complaints regarding female foeticide were received from Jakhal (Fatehbad) and Mohindergarh. The enquiries were got conducted but the charges could not be substantiated for want of evidence against the violators. In Tamil Nadu, legal action has been taken against one doctor in 1998 in Dharmapuri, who had done the Pre-Natal sex determination of a pregnant mother.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the practice of female foeticide :

(i) With a view to regulate and prevent the misuse of modern prenatal diagnostic techniques, which often follows detection and selective abortion of female foetus, the Pre- natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT) has been enacted, in the country with effect from 1st January, 1996. Under this Act, pre- natal diagnostic techniques can be conducted and genetic counselling can be offered only by genetic clinics, genetic laboratories and genetic counselling centres registered under the Act. Use of such techniques is allowed only for detecting any of the abnormalities and subject to the fulfilment of one of the conditions specified in the Act. Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is prohibited. Punishments are prescribed for violation of the law.

(ii) Appropriate Authorities have been constituted in all States, under the Act by the respective State Governments.

(iii) Advisory Committees to aid and advise the Appropriate Authorities have also been constituted in all States except West Bengal and Bihar. The implementation of the Act rests with the State/UT Government/ Administration concerned.

(iv) A Central Supervisory Board (CSB) has been constituted under the PNDT Act to guide the Government from time to time for effective implementation of the Act.

(v) Awareness generation programmes about the provisions of the PNDT Act have beenundertaken through intensified IEC activities in the States.
(vi) Government has involved NGOs/VoluntaryOrganisations for creating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among the Doctors/Nursing Homes/Clinics and general public.

(vii) Balika Samridhi Yojana to promote survival and care of Girl Child is being implemented under which a cash incentive is awarded at the birth of the girl child of the birth order one or two.

(e) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, NGOs are being involved to take up activities for reducing gender discrimination and bringing about gender equity.

Annexure

Lok Sabha Starred Question No.151 dated 29th November, 2000

Incidence of Foeticide during 1997-1999 +

Sl.	State/UT	1997	1998	1999
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2
3.	Assam	0	0	5
4.	Bihar	5	5	3
5.	Goa	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	2	0	0
7	Haryana	0	0	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	0
10.	Karnataka	1	2	1
11.	Kerala	2	1	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20	8	6
13.	Maharashtra	7	4	10
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	1	0	1
19.	Punjab	0	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	2	1	0
21.	Sikkim	0	0	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0
26.	A&N Islands	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
28.	D&N Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	4	0	1
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0

+ As collected by National Crime Record Bureau.